

**National Recreational Trails Federal Program****FY2003 Request: \$695,000**  
**Reference No: 6854****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Jim Stratton**Election District:** Statewide**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8700**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2006**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

All across Alaska, Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence, and travel between communities. These trails need constant maintenance to ensure they are safe for passage and to ensure that they remain open and available for use. Funds are distributed by 80-20 matching grants for recreational trail and trailhead development and maintenance, and for education programs relating to trail safety and environmental protection. Grants are awarded to organizations, businesses, agencies, and local governments.

**Funding:**

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000		\$3,475,000
Total:	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$695,000	\$0	\$3,475,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

SLA01/CH61 - \$710,000  
SLA00/CH135 - \$710,000  
SLA99/CH2 - \$650,000

As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's vast trail system for recreation, subsistence, and basic transportation between communities, the need for a more extensive and well-maintained trail system continues to grow. The growing population is also putting development pressure on the existing trail system and many trails are being lost as property is subdivided or sold to private owners. We can assist in slowing the loss of our existing trail system through this granting program and will sustain and improve that system as well.

State funds are saved by the availability of these federal grant funds for development and maintenance of Alaska's public recreational trails. Public safety is improved by having well maintained trails. Trespass is reduced by securing trail easements with grant funds. Search and rescue costs are reduced by having well marked and maintained trails that are easy to follow. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 20 percent of grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by providing construction and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, and by stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies.

**Project History:**

The first recreational trails grant funds, originally called Symms Grants, were available in 1993 through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Alaska received \$110,000. The program has subsequently been funded in slowly increasing amounts each year from 1996 to the present (see appropriation history on page 1). Applications for 2001 grants are currently being evaluated and grants will be made in February, 2001 to successful applicants.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

One hundred percent of the grant amount will be spent as follows: 7% for program administration; 5% for education; and of the remainder, 30% is available for non-motorized trail projects, 30% for motorized trail projects, and 40 percent for projects with both motorized and non-motorized trail uses.

**Project Support:**

This program receives between 60 and 70 applications each year from communities and local trail organizations across Alaska. Approximately 25 grants are given each year. Every community and organization receiving a Recreational Trails Grant benefits and supports this program. In addition, this program is supported by the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) Program, local state park advisory boards, and local communities.

**Project Opposition:** none